



TOWN OF LOS GATOS

SPRING 2008

OUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Town of Los Gatos Guiding Principles

Small Town Service

Community Stewardship

Future Focus

State of the Town

The following is an abridged version of the State of the Town address delivered by Mayor Barbara Spector

Good Evening Los Gatos and welcome to the 2008 Los Gatos State of the Town Address. As Mayor of the Town of Los Gatos, it is my honor and privilege to deliver the State of the Town Address. With me this evening is Vice Mayor Mike Wasserman and Council Members Steve Glickman, Diane McNutt, and Joe Pirzynski. Also with me is our new Town Manager, Greg Larson.

I'm going to skip to the end of my speech so you don't have any more suspense and tell you about what the State of the Town is going to be like in 2008. It is going to be dynamic, exciting, and challenging. As I go through what I consider the highlights of 2008, I am going to step back occasionally and put the projects in the context of Town processes.

In 2008, the Town of Los Gatos will proceed with its police facility. The facility is the old Verizon building located on Los Gatos Boulevard. We hit the ground running in 2007, and are going through the planning approval process. This means that even the Chief of Police of Los Gatos has to go through the Planning Commission and eventually the Town Council. The police building at the Civic Center will remain, along with the one on Los Gatos Boulevard. I was working with staff to figure out how to simply explain what stays here and what goes there. Greg Larson made it succinct and said the police headquarters is where you go when you want to see the police. Police operations is where you go when the police want to see you. We anticipate that the new police facility will open in Spring 2009.

In 2008, we will move forward with the new Library. I was driving around the Civic Center today before this meeting so I could visualize where the Library would be. The best I can describe it is that it will be in back of the Civic Center, adjacent to Pageant Park. Our current library was built in the 1960's. At that time, the Town had a population of 9,000. We now have a population of 30,000. The new library will be built to better accommodate our needs and have a larger children's reading room, computer facilities, and student study areas. More importantly, it will be built without new taxes. As with the new police facility, the library will go through the Town Planning and Town Council approval process.

Los Gatos 2008 also includes updating the General Plan. The General Plan is the most important document the Town has. Everything we do must be consistent with the General Plan. The

General Plan has "elements," but you can call them chapters. Chapters in the General Plan include issues related to Housing, Transportation, and Open Space and Conservation. It is a local government's best practice to update the General Plan every ten years. The updated General Plan will cover the period 2010 to 2020. The Council, when it met last year, agreed that the document continues to accurately reflect the policies of this Town, but needs some refinement as a result of current and future projects that may impact the General Plan. We will be adding or expanding chapters to address: the environment, youth, seniors, and recreation.

I know there are a number of you here tonight that are interested in participating in the General Plan update process. We will make information available to the public as to what the opportunities are. It will be in the newspaper, town website, and Vista, which is the paper the Town sends out twice a year.

In 2008, Los Gatos will be looking forward with "20/20" vision. Every year the Council has a retreat between January and March. It is an opportunity that we have for about a day in a less formal setting to talk to one another about key issues. This year it's going to be a little different. Rather than talk, we're going to listen. We are going to have a series of panels. Panels will focus on recreation, youth, seniors, and the environment. Our panels will explore anticipated Town interests and needs during the period 2010 to 2020, looking forward with "20/20" vision.

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General Plan Gets An Update

The Town will begin updating the General Plan in Spring 2008. The Town Council has concluded that the current General Plan is serving the community well but could use some fine tuning. The update will not be a complete overhaul but rather a refinement of the existing General Plan to identify outdated information and address new key topics identified by the Town Council, including the environment, recreation, and the needs of youth and seniors. State Law requires the Housing Element to be updated by January 2009. You can view the current General Plan on the Town's web site at www.losgatosca.gov/generalplan.

The Council will be seeking public input through a variety of outreach efforts which will include a community-wide visioning session, workshops, panels on key topics, Council meetings, and Commission and Board meetings. Staff will be working on the update with the General Plan Advisory Committee that will include General Plan Committee members and 10 additional members from the community. If you are interested in serving on the General Plan Advisory Committee or being notified about future meetings, you can let us know by signing up on the Town's electronic mailing list at www.losgatosca.gov/notifyme.

Los Gatos Goes Green

The Los Gatos Town Council made climate protection a top priority when they voted to pass a resolution adopting the Local Governments for Sustainability (known as ICLEI — International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives) Cities for Climate Protection Campaign (CCP). The CCP is an innovative campaign that helps local government and communities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and their impact on the environment. The Town will seek to meet five milestones to reduce both greenhouse gas and air pollution emissions throughout the community.

The five milestones are:

- Conduct a greenhouse gas emissions inventory and forecast to

determine the source and quantity of greenhouse gas emissions in the jurisdiction.


- Establish a greenhouse gas emissions reduction target.
- Develop an action plan with both existing and future actions which, when implemented, will meet the local greenhouse gas reduction target.
- Implement the action plan.
- Monitor and report progress.

Ongoing climate protection activities will continue to be a priority throughout the process of development of the emissions study and goal setting. Some notable environmental accomplishments include:

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The *Town of Los Gatos Vista* is published by the Town of Los Gatos Community Services Department. Your comments are welcome.

Send your comments to:

Town of Los Gatos Vista
Attn: Town Manager
110 E. Main Street
Los Gatos, CA 95032

(408) 354-6832
manager@losgatosca.gov

Country Life, 1906

By the first decade of the 20th century, fruit ranches and farms of 10 – 20 acres were the norm around Los Gatos. Photography had also become affordable, with home and family the favorite subjects. This scene, taken in 1906, was typical. A wood frame house, a tank house, and a barn appear on the foothills just south of town. Other buildings on the ranch might have included a privy, a washhouse, and a chicken coop. Sitting high on the hill at the center of the photograph is the Sacred Heart Novitiate, opened in 1888, surrounded by flourishing orchards.



So far, I’ve stated that we have a dynamic year coming up, discussed key projects, and indicated we have challenges. Each year, our Budget Director, Steve Conway, and his department analyze our projected revenues for July 1 to June 30. Staff develops a budget based on the projected revenues and brings it to Council in the spring as a public hearing item for public input. Over the past eight years, when other governments have had challenges living within their budgets, Los Gatos has done very well because of our conservative approach. However, the challenge we are facing in 2008 is a potential reduction in our revenues and an increase in our expenses.

I’ve said this before, but as your elected representatives, we not only attend meetings here in Town, but we go to meetings throughout the county and the region. And, some of us throughout the nation. Wherever I go, people say to me, “I wish our town could be like your Town.” And what they’re talking about is the vibrancy of our downtown and diverse businesses. However, over the past year, many of us have been asked: “What are you doing about those empty storefronts?” Well, first of all, they’re not empty anymore. Putting that aside, what we must understand is that when you are seeing empty storefronts, it’s often because a tenant has moved out and that the property is going through a series of business transactions for

of Staff/Budget & Policy Director for former San Jose Mayor Tom McEnery.

Mr. Larson’s expertise in public policy, fiscal planning, economic development and environmental and land use planning has prepared him well for the position of Town Manager. Mr. Larson is also well-served by his network of contacts in Silicon Valley and the State Capitol resulting from his leadership, civic engagement and interest in technology and innovation.

Mr. Larson, a self-described “proud older dad,” lives with his wife Eileen Beaudry in Santa Cruz. Their family includes one-year-old Cavanaugh and Camille, who is three-and-a-half years old.



State of the Town

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As mentioned, the Council has already decided that the General Plan will include an expanded discussion of the environment. In addition, we will establish our carbon emission baseline and reduction goals, and assess how best to reduce and measure our reductions. Last year, we determined that the Community Services Commission would monitor our environmental efforts. A sub-committee will be formed within the Community Services Commission composed of members from the Community Services Commission, Planning Commission, Parks Commission, and Transportation Commission. That group will become an advisory group to the Council on environmental and climate control and sustainability issues. Lastly, Los Gatos will participate in the development of regional standards and practices for county-wide green building standards.

As you already know, the State projects a \$14 billion shortfall. The Governor has stated that the State will not take funds from local government. However, when the State had a shortfall in the past, it took money from local governments which made it exceedingly difficult, if not impossible, for local governments to balance their budgets. In 2004, Prop 1A was passed, which now makes it difficult for the State to take local funds. Those of us who are in local government are very thankful that the Governor’s budget proposal does not include local takeaways. Regardless, we will watch Sacramento with cautious eyes, waiting to see what happens. I don’t want to sound like Chicken Little. I’m not saying, “The sky is falling.” However, I feel we must be cautious in monitoring our revenues and our expenses. Yesterday we paved your streets, cleaned up your parks, and checked out your library books. Tomorrow

whatever reason. The tenant turnover you see is not government controlled, but is due to economics and changes in the private sector. Having said that, I’d like to announce a new program that is going to be implemented by your new Town Manager, Greg Larson, and your new Mayor, Barbara Spector. Once a month, for the remainder of the year, we will meet with ten businesses that are important to Los Gatos to better understand their needs and economic perspective.

Los Gatos 2008 will have three elections, one in February, June, and November. These elections will cover many local, state and national issues. On February 5th, you’ll be voting on two local initiatives. One concerning the Town Treasurer and the Town Clerk, and the other on the skateboard park. Everything that I have discussed and will discuss regarding issues facing Los Gatos this year will occur and be viewed in the context of decisions made in the 2008 elections.

Now let me step back a little bit and talk from a personal perspective. In 2008, I will continue to support the Green Leaf Committee, which is comprised of residents and businesses from Los Gatos, Monte Sereno and Saratoga. The Green Leaf Committee was started by me, Erin Garner, and Ann Walton-Smith during our terms as Vice Mayors. Within one month, the Committee received a \$2,500 grant from PG&E, developed a website with blogs, and led a competition amongst the three jurisdictions to encourage community conversion of LED holiday lights. Right now, this group is preparing its initiatives and projects for 2008. You can access the website at www.westvalleygreenleaf.com. Another group that I will be following is Los Gatos Unleashed, which was formed in 2004 and has partnered with the Humane Society of Silicon Valley to bring a dog park to downtown Los Gatos. That website can be accessed at www.losgatosunleashed.org.

Let me conclude by saying that the beauty, history, and the vision of Los Gatos have always inspired its citizens. It inspires me as your Mayor to work as hard as I can on everything that I have discussed. I have no doubt that in 2008, this wonderful community will be inspired to meet the challenges of Los Gatos and will surpass all expectations.

Keep Los Gatos Beautiful

April is Keep Los Gatos Beautiful Month. Every year during April, the Town of Los Gatos sponsors, co-sponsors, and supports events dedicated to the beautification of Los Gatos and our commitment to living and growing greener as a community. This year's events promise to provide a variety of educational and entertaining celebrations for all ages. From booths at the Farmers Market to the Town's National Arbor Day event, there is something for the environmentalist in us all. Our annual Keep Los Gatos Beautiful Newsletter with details and contact information is available on the Town website www.losgatosca.gov.

Some of this year's events and celebrations will include:

Bring Your Own Bag Campaign

Residents are challenged to swap out their paper and plastic grocery bags with a reusable canvas bag.

Special Farmers Market Exhibits

During the month of April, while you are at the Farmers Market, check out the special exhibits with a green focus.

Children's Earth Day Celebration

Saturday, April 5, children 4 & up are invited at 3:00 pm to Celebrate Earth Day with Wild Things, Inc., a nonprofit organization that visits tens of thousands of school children every year with a message of conservation and appreciation for the earth's natural wonders. The program will take place in the Children's Room of the Los Gatos Public Library.

Plant Swap

On Wednesday, April 23 from 9:00 am until 2:30 pm, adults 55+ are invited to share or swap plant starts, seeds and bulbs at The 55+ Program located at the Neighborhood Center.

National Arbor Day

Please join us as we celebrate National Arbor Day on Friday, April 25 at 1:00 pm



at Daves Avenue Elementary School. For more information, please contact the Parks and Public Works Department at (408) 399-5777.

Refresh A Planter Box Day

The Los Gatos Community Foundation (LGSF) Beautification Committee invites you to join them on Saturday, April 19 at 9:00 am. Volunteers will meet at the Plaza to pick up trash, pull weeds and clean up planters on N. Santa Cruz. For more information contact Sue Dinga at smdinga@aol.com.

"Los Gatos: Growing Greener" Campaign

Did you know the Town of Los Gatos is a certified Green Business? In fact there are several certified green businesses

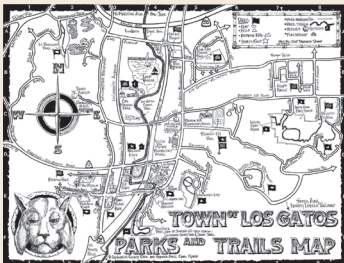
here in Los Gatos committed to making a difference every day. The Town kicks off a new campaign in April to educate and promote "Growing Greener" as a community at work and at play. Look for new topics, tips and fun facts about "Growing Greener" on the Town's website www.losgatosca.gov.

Clean Up the Los Gatos Trail Day

Please join Leadership Los Gatos and the West Valley Green Leaf Group on Saturday, April 26 from 9:00 am until 12:30 pm to help clean up the Los Gatos Trail. Meet at the amphitheater behind Borders Books. For more information, contact Christine Currie at threegreencommunities@gmail.com.

New Town Park and Trail Map

Spring is a great time to hit the Trails! A new park and trail map is available online and at Town facilities, including Town Hall, Library, and Service Center. The map provides a hand-drawn rendering of Los Gatos parks and trails as well as information on park amenities. To obtain a copy online visit www.losgatosca.gov/parksmap.



LGS Recreation – Building A Healthy Community

Serving the Communities of Los Gatos, Saratoga, Monte Sereno & Mountain Area for over 50 years.



LGS RECREATION

Los Gatos-Saratoga Community Education and Recreation is a non-profit agency that was formed in 1956 through a joint powers agreement with the local school districts in Los Gatos and Saratoga. Partnership and collaboration are key strategies that enable LGS Recreation to provide a broad scope of services to the community. In addition to the local school districts who founded and govern the Agency, the Town of Los Gatos is an integral partner for services to the Los Gatos community. LGS Recreation helps to build a healthy community by providing a wide range of education, recreation, and enrichment programs.

Choose from over 300+ classes and programs!

Activity Guides are published each August, December, March and May.

RECREATION programs are offered for preschool, youth, teens, adults and seniors over 55. Classes and programs include Clubhouse, School Age Childcare, Zone, GATE, Immersion Language, Elementary Summer School, Swimming, Specialty Camps, and LGS Big Band.

ADULT EDUCATION programs such as Independent Study, Parent Participation Nursery Schools, English As A Second Language classes, Adults 55+, Saratoga Community Band, Parenting Continuum are offered.

Office location

123 East Main Street, Los Gatos, CA 95030 | (408) 354-8700 | www.lgsrecreation.org

Los Gatos Goes Green

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NorCal Solar Energy Association – City Solar Awards

The Town of Los Gatos was recently honored with 2nd place by the NorCal Solar Energy Association for the number of solar projects installed in a medium-sized city. As of December 31, 2006, the Town had a total of 149 solar installations. The innovative solar recognition program, called the City Solar Awards (CSAs), recognizes cities for the amount of solar photovoltaic (PV) technology installed on homes, businesses and municipal buildings. The CSAs raise public awareness about the benefits of solar technology and develop a spirit of friendly competition between municipalities that will encourage the creation of specific solar goals. The

awards are based on the total amount of grid-tied PV installations on all buildings.

Hybrid Vehicles

The Building Department recently purchased a Ford Escape hybrid. As new vehicles are purchased, replacement with an alternative fuel vehicle is considered whenever possible and practical. The Town also has a large fleet of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) vehicles that use the Town's CNG station. CNG vehicles have extremely low CO₂ emissions and CNG fuel costs are lower. The City of Saratoga also uses the Town's fuel station for their CNG trucks.

Bachman Park Irrigation Improvement

The lawn area at Bachman Park has been renovated to replace the outdated

irrigation system. The new irrigation system was designed with input from the Santa Clara Valley Water District and includes water saving devices to irrigate the lawn in a much more efficient manner. The former irrigation system's efficiency rating was 5%. The new system will be closer to 100% efficient. The Town will review water usage and irrigation at other parks and facilities to make improvements whenever possible.

Climate Protection activities have become a part of doing business today. Going "green" means moving toward environmentally sustainable practices whenever possible and seeking to use resources in a more efficient, environmentally friendly way. The Town evaluates every opportunity to make choices that have the least impact to the climate.



Police Operations Building Under Construction

As you drive down Los Gatos Boulevard in the coming months, you can watch the former Verizon building being transformed into the new home of police operations for the Los Gatos-Monte Sereno Police Department. The 10,000 sq. ft. building will be remodeled and about 3,000 sq. ft. of new construction will be added. In addition to housing patrol officers and detectives, the facility will accommodate evidence storage and a new Emergency Operations Center for the Town government.

Police headquarters will remain at Town Hall. Services at this location will include emergency dispatch, records, parking control officers, administrative staff, and the Chief of Police. The public will continue to go to the Town Hall headquarters to obtain police reports

and records, and to talk to patrol officers. In other words, if you want to see the police, you would go to the Town Hall location. People invited to speak to detectives will go to the new operations facility. The holding cells for suspects (held on a temporary basis only until they are transferred to the county jail) will be at this location as well. In general, the new facility will be where one would go if the police want to see them.

The new operations facility will meet a critical need for additional space for police services. Currently, police services are provided in crowded, sub-standard spaces in Town Hall. With the opening of the new facility in Spring of 2009, the police department will have sufficient room for its operations. In addition, the operations building will expand the presence of the police department to the eastern portion of Los Gatos.



Rendering of New Police Headquarters

Summer Fun

Music in the Park

Sundays, June 22 through August 31
5:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Civic Center Lawn
110 East Main Street

Los Gatans in the know, know that the best entertainment deal in Town is the annual Music in the Park free concert series. Bring your children, your friends, and a picnic dinner, and spend a warm summer evening outside enjoying great music. This year's series will run from June 22 to August 31, with concerts each Sunday evening from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. A special concert will be held July 4, as part of the *Los Gatos Celebrates the 4th of July* event (see below). For an updated listing of concert bands, visit the Town website at www.losgatosca.gov/mip. Music in the Park is produced by the Town of Los Gatos Arts Commission and is funded by local business and citizen contributions.

Los Gatos Celebrates the 4th of July

Friday, July 4 – 11:00 am to 7:30 pm
Civic Center Lawn, 110 East Main Street;
Los Gatos High School Lawn, 235 East Main Street

Come celebrate Independence Day with us at the 7th annual *Los Gatos Celebrates the 4th of July* event. This all day event focuses on fun for the whole family beginning at 11:00 am with games and activities on the Civic Center lawn. At 1:30 pm a special Music in the Park concert will be held on the Los Gatos High School lawn, featuring the San Jose Wind Symphony's presentation of patriotic selections, including many "pops" concert favorites. After the concert, return to the Civic Center for a free cake and ice cream social and an old fashioned sing-a-long followed by bingo and lemonade in the shade. The day will wrap up with a second concert at 5:30 pm, featuring The Hit Men, with a variety of food and soft drinks available for purchase. You won't want to miss this down-home, community celebration! More information will be available on the Town's website in June.

Los Gatos Shakespeare Festival

Weekends, July 18 through August 9, 8:00 pm
Oak Meadow Park, 233 Blossom Hill Road

Enjoy outdoor theatrical presentations by the Festival Theatre Ensemble, held under the stars at Oak Meadow Park. The 2008 festival schedule includes *As You Like It*; *The Tempest*; and *Beauty and the Beast*. For information about performance dates and ticket prices, call the Festival Theatre Ensemble at (408) 996-0635, or visit their website at www.festivaltheatreensemble.org.



Screen on the Green

Friday, September 26
7:30 pm
Oak Meadow Park, 233 Blossom Hill Road

Screen on the Green is a free, outdoor showing of a family movie at Oak Meadow Park on a Friday evening. For more information as it becomes available, visit the Town website www.losgatosca.gov.



Town Begins Planning for New Library

Fulfilling a long-term need, the Town will begin planning for a new library in the coming months. The current 14,000 sq. ft. library was built in 1964 when the population of Los Gatos was 9,000. Today, Los Gatos' population is nearly 30,000 and many people use the library — 209,000 visits per year! Among the biggest users of the library are children; more than 10,000 youth participate in library programs annually.

The new library will be approximately 30,000 sq. ft., providing sufficient space for book collections, a children's storytelling room, a teen room, reading room, technology training room with public-use computers, and space to house the local history collection in protected wall cases. A library of this size will be comparable to recently-built

libraries serving similar populations throughout the region. No new taxes will be levied to pay for the construction of the new library.

Situated on the southeast corner of the Civic Center site, the new library is planned to have access to Pageant Park behind Town Hall. It is expected that the Town will engage an architectural firm in early spring to begin working on the schematic design for the library. This will include developing a final space program to determine how best to accommodate the library's needs. The general public and library users will be asked to provide input at a number of stages throughout the development of the schematic design. Check the Town's website and local newspapers to hear about opportunities to participate.

Springtime in Los Gatos, 1926

These six young Los Gatos High School students gathered under a sea of white prune blossoms for a photograph as they neared the end of their high school years. Pictured left to right are Betty Wills, class of 1927, a member of the Glee Club, who went to Coe College in Iowa; Roberta Glenn, class of 1927, also a member of the Glee Club, who played baseball and volleyball and became Mrs. Wilbur Worden soon after graduation; Mary Balch, class of 1926, a member of the student council and a tennis player who attended Mills College for "finishing school" and then went on to Stanford where she was the third woman to graduate with a degree in Geology; Catherine Marlay, class of 1927, who played on the girls' hockey team, was a member of the student council and went to Catlin College in Portland; Thelma Cornell, class of 1926, who played piano with the Advanced Orchestra at the high school, played tennis, and attended the State Teachers' College in San Jose; and Betty Markley, class of 1926, who went on to University of California, Berkeley.

Photograph courtesy of Mary Balch Kennedy.



Be Green and Make a Little Green at the 2008 Community Garage Sale

With the Annual Community Garage Sale just around the corner, now is a great time to do some spring cleaning. Don't allow your neglected yet valuable items to go to the landfill, instead sign up to participate in the Community Garage Sale and give others the opportunity to purchase and reuse the items you no longer need. The sale will take place on Saturday, May 17, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm throughout Los Gatos and Monte Sereno. This event is a partnership between the Town of Los Gatos, the City of Monte Sereno and the Santa Clara County Recycling and Waste Reduction Program. Focusing on solid waste and recycling

issues at home is a great way to improve the environment and put an emphasis on recycling, reusing and giving rather than simply throwing away.

The Community Garage Sale is fun and easy. Residents of Los Gatos, Monte Sereno and the unincorporated areas of the two cities are invited to hold garage sales at their homes, join with neighbors to hold block sales or hold a fundraiser sale with community or school groups. The Town will promote all registered sales through press releases, newspaper ads and flyers. A shopper's guide, including all registered garage sale addresses will be published and available to the community the week of the sale.

If you would like more information about the Community Garage Sale or to register your sale, call the Neighborhood Center at (408) 354-6820 or visit the Town's website at www.losgatosca.gov/garagesale. Online registration is available for your convenience, and registration is free. The deadline to register is Thursday, May 1.



Los Gatos Recycles

Great job! West Valley Collection & Recycling (WVC&R) appreciates your efforts in properly placing your garbage, recycling and greenwaste carts out for collection. Thank you for setting your carts out by 6:00 am on your collection day and spacing your carts sufficiently apart with wheels against the curb.

WVC&R suggests the following tips to keep Los Gatos green:

- Keep your yard trimmings "green" and your recyclables clean by keeping all garbage out of your green waste and recycling carts. Garbage contaminates recyclable materials.

- When recycling plastic bags, please bundle bags together inside one plastic bag and tie the top. Single plastic bags may create litter on neighborhood streets. Go one step further and use reusable cloth bags instead of plastic or paper bags.
- Break down cardboard before placing into your recycling cart. Cardboard boxes are bulky and may cause carts to overflow.

For more information, please visit www.westvalleyrecycles.com or call WVC&R at (408) 283-9250.

Choosing Reusable

"Paper or Plastic?" When considering this all too familiar choice given at most major grocery stores, many would argue that the answer should actually be neither. A reusable bag is the most environmental friendly choice to carry your items home from the store. Any single use shopping bag can cause a negative impact on our environment. According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, in 2000 only 1% of all plastic bags consumed were recycled, that leaves the other 99% as litter in our neighborhoods and waste in our landfills. Plastic bags don't biodegrade, they photodegrade; meaning, they will breakdown into small toxic particles that can then contaminate our soil and waterways. So why not just use paper? Paper bags do biodegrade and are typically recycled more frequently than their plastic counterpart making them a more desirable choice for many. However, paper bags require more energy than plastic bags to produce, transport, and recycle; ultimately making reusable bags the most environmentally friendly choice.

It is estimated that 4 out of 5 grocery bags used in the United States are plastic and that an average family consumes 60 plastic grocery bags in only 4 trips to the store. These are just two of the many facts and statistics about plastic bag consumption in the US and worldwide. Many local, national and international groups are taking steps to discourage consumption, such as a tax or ban on single use plastic bags in their area and instead encourage the use of reusable shopping bags and baskets.

This trend of reducing single use paper and plastic bag consumption is driving the need for an alternative. Reusable bags are available at many local retailers or online. The bags are made of a variety of different materials providing design, durability and size options to fit the needs and preferences of most consumers. Many establishments even give the bags away or offer discounts to customers who bring in their own reusable bag rather than using the paper or plastic bags provided at check-out.

Below is a list of local grocery stores offering a credit or incentive to customers who bring in their own reusable shopping bags:

- Nob Hill Foods gives customers a 5 cent credit per bag
- Safeway Stores give customers a 3 cent credit per bag
- Trader Joe's gives customers a raffle ticket to enter into a monthly drawing for \$50
- Whole Foods Markets gives customers a 5 cent credit per bag or will make a donation to a local organization

The average family of four uses 1,000 plastic bags each year and it can take more than 1,000 years for a disposable plastic bag to break down in a landfill. On the other hand, a reusable bag can be used more than 1,000 times. Instead of choosing between paper or plastic at the grocery store, bring a reusable bag and do your part to Keep Los Gatos Beautiful. Bringing your own bag is a small thing that we can all do to make a positive impact on the environment.

Green Businesses

The Bay Area Green Business Program verifies that businesses meet higher standards of environmental performance.

Certified Green Businesses must practice resource efficiency and assume stewardship for the Earth and its resources with the goals of achieving a successful business operation, a healthy bottom line, and sustenance of the environment and its inhabitants. The following Los Gatos businesses have been certified Green Businesses:

- Akeena Solar

- C Kirby Consulting
- Crimson Restaurant
- HLD Group Landscape Architecture
- Hotel Los Gatos
- Los Gatos United Methodist Church
- Los Gatos Village Printers
- Sereno Group
- The Town of Los Gatos

A Green Business not only conserves resources but also educates employees and customers about resource conservation. For more information about the Santa Clara County Green Business Program, visit www.greenbiz.ca.gov.

Are You Prepared?

Find all the resources necessary to prepare you and your family in the event of an earthquake or flu pandemic:

- 72-Hour Self-Sufficiency Emergency Preparedness Kit
- Family Communication Plan
- Family Reunion Plan

Visit www.losgatosprepared.org for more information.



Children’s Programs At The Library

The Los Gatos Public Library continues to host a series of fun and educational Children’s Programs with the generous

support of the Friends of the Library. All events will take place in the Children’s Room of the library (110 E. Main St.), unless otherwise specified. Please note days, times and age ranges (where noted). For additional information, contact Heidi Long, Children’s Librarian, at (408) 354-6894, hlong@losgatosca.gov or stop by the library.

Special Events

Family Paper Making Project

To celebrate Earth Day at the library, we will host a family paper making project. Come learn how to turn your junk mail into art!

Tuesday, April 22 at 4:00 pm

Mother’s Day Flower Arranging Class

Boys and girls in Grades 3 and up are invited to come to the library to learn the art of flower arranging and make a gift for mom.

Thursday, May 8 at 4:00 pm

Sing Along with the Banana Slug String Band

Boys and girls of ALL ages, join us for the kick off of our Summer Reading Program. Come listen to the Banana Slug String Band on the lawn and sign up to “Catch the Reading Bug!” Come early and claim your spot!

Thursday, June 5 – Sign-ups begin at 3:30 pm, Music begins at 4:00 pm

Python Ron’s Insects and Reptiles

Children ages 4 and up, come see Python Ron and his kingdom of snakes, lizards and bugs!

Thursday, June 19 at 5:00 pm

Buggy Arts & Crafts

Children of all ages, join us for an afternoon of bug-tastic crafts!

Thursday, June 26 at 3:30 pm

The Wild Bird Center of Los Gatos presents Insects and Birds

Children of all ages, join us for a special puppet show and storytime with Freddie Howell of the Wild Bird Center.

Thursday, July 10 at 3:30 pm

East Bay Vivarium

Children of all ages, come find out what mysterious reptiles, amphibians, and creepy bugs will be at the library.

Thursday, July 17 at 3:30 pm

P&T Puppet Theatre presents *The Spider and the Fly*

Children of all ages, join us for a special evening puppet show at the library!

Thursday, July 24 at 6:30 pm

“Catch the Reading Bug” all summer long at the Los Gatos Library. Come in, sign up for summer reading and stay tuned for more great programs. Summer Reading will begin June 5 and run through August 14. Children of ALL ages are invited to participate.

Teen Summer Reading will also run from June 5 through August 14. Teens ages 13-18, join us for a summer of “Metamorphosis!” Check out our Teen webpage at <http://www.losgatosca.gov> for details on summer art programs, college entrance workshops, and more!

Ongoing Events

Toddler Storytime

Mondays at 10:30 am
18 mos–3 yrs

Preschool Storytime

Tuesdays at 10:30 am
3–5 yrs

Mother Goose Storytime

Fridays at 10:30 am
0–18 mos

Books Together

Mondays, Wednesdays & Thursdays (no Thursdays during summer months)
All ages

Make Your Mark, Children’s Knitting Group

Tuesdays 3:30 pm– 5:00 pm
Grades 3 and up

Children’s Book Club

Last Thursday of each month at 4:00 pm (no book clubs during summer months)
Grades 3–6

Los Gatos Public Library gets *Library Thing for Libraries* in the Online Catalog!

Tags
adult contemporary cranes library medicine memory mystery National Book Award national book award winner Nebraska neuroscience psychology siblings us
Similar Books
The Zero : a novel by Walter, Jess Ten days in the hills by Smiley, Jane The uses of enchantment : a novel by Juvavits, Heidi Eat the document : a novel by Spiotta, Dana

Los Gatos Public Library has added a new, multifaceted feature to its online catalog. The Town now has another way to help you search for and find books; it is called *Library Thing for Libraries*. The Town’s Library is one of about 35 libraries in the US that are taking advantage of this bold new technology that is an outgrowth of the popular social book cataloging site, *Library Thing*.

Most all books now have a group of **tags**, which are normal words that describe what the book is about. The largest and boldest tags are the most popular. If you click on a tag, the tag browser will open and you will see a clickable list of other books that the Town owns that have the same tag. You also have an extended search capability using the tag browser. For example, if you search for “sustainability” you will find about 35 items, whereas in the regular catalog you would only find 11 items.

If you are looking for **book suggestions**, *Library Thing for Libraries* also provides a list of up to five similar books for most book records in our library catalog. This is a great way to browse for titles. If you search for a book you liked, you will see the links to suggested titles at the bottom of the page under the orange “Similar Books” banner. Click on these links to find books you may not have read and to find even more book suggestions.

Some custom coding is also available to create **Award Winners** lists using *Library Thing for Libraries* tags. On the orange top banner of the main search screen, there is an Award Winners link that takes you to a list of links and descriptions for each award. If you click the award name, you will see links to all the books the Town owns that have won the award.

Los Gatos Volunteers Make A Difference!

Town of Los Gatos volunteers provide support and services that benefit the entire community. Between November 2007 and January 2008, the Town gained the support of over 35 new adult and youth volunteers in the Library, Police Department and Senior Center as well as other Town Departments. Volunteers are greatly appreciated for the time and energy so graciously given each week. Volunteers truly are making a difference in Los Gatos!

If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering, visit our Community Unity website. Community Unity is a grassroots effort to bring the Los Gatos Community together to focus on building, maintaining and improving community partnerships and fostering civic pride. Any local nonprofit group that has a planned service project in need of volunteers or any local volunteer group available to assist with service projects may register on the Community Unity webpage. You may also sign up to receive an email notification each time Community Unity is updated. To learn more about Community Unity, or to register your volunteer group or service project, visit www.losgatosca.gov/cu.



April 28 – May 1, 2008 is National Volunteer Week

The Town of Los Gatos extends sincere gratitude to all of the Los Gatos community members who dedicate a portion of their own time and resources to benefit others in the community. Happy National Volunteer Week!



The Banana Slug String Band.

Subscribe to the What’s New! Email Delivery Service:

www.losgatosca.gov/whatsnew

Senior Center News

The Los Gatos Senior Center is known by its regulars as a gathering place for local seniors, a spot to socialize with old friends and to make new ones, a frequent starting point for planned trips and activities, and the scene of many parties and events. But local seniors and their loved ones should also know that the Senior Center is a multifaceted service provider that seeks to achieve for its customers wellness and autonomy through advocacy, communication, education, socialization, and referrals to other services. Some of the services and activities available through the Senior Center include:

Case Management Services

Case management is a collaborative process of assessment, planning, facilitation, and advocacy for options and services to meet an individual’s mental and physical health needs through communication and effective utilization of available resources. The Senior Center has a trained case manager available

to meet with you and your family, at no cost to you, who can provide a needs assessment and help with finding ways to meet those needs. The case manager often helps families with issues such as finding appropriate social service agencies, completing the complicated applications required to receive social services, and sorting out seniors’ financial options.

Wednesday Movies

On the fourth Wednesday of each month, a top-rated movie is shown in the Neighborhood Center Lounge at 1:00 pm. Admission and snacks are free! The movie program has been donated a big-screen television, so that you can enjoy all your favorite actors at close to life-size! Join other film buffs and enjoy this fun afternoon activity.

Summer Activities

A wide variety of social activities will be held during the summer, including the Annual Senior Picnic, the Summer Dance, and an Indian Casino bus trip. These

activities are not just fun — they are vitally important for seniors to maintain social contacts as they age. Social interactions are crucial for maintaining mental health and fighting the isolation that often afflicts seniors. For more information on any Senior Center activity or service, call the Senior Center at (408) 354-1514. Or, visit the Town website, www.losgatosca.gov, and click on “Living in Los Gatos.”

The 55+ Wednesday Program

Join friends every Wednesday from 8:30 am – 2:30 pm in the Neighborhood Center Hall for a variety of social activities such as cards, other table games, lunches, entertainment, informational talks and more. Call Lynnette Vega, Manager of 55+ Classes and Programs at (408) 354-2360. This program is sponsored by Los Gatos-Saratoga Community Education Recreation.

Get Involved: Join A Commission!

The Town has a number of volunteer commissions, boards and committees whose purpose is to act in an advisory capacity to the Town Council. If you would like to get more involved in your community or become more familiar with municipal government, this is your opportunity. Participation on a commission, board or committee is a satisfying and challenging experience, as well as a significant responsibility. It provides an opportunity to become intimately familiar with the operating policies and challenges of municipal government. It personifies citizen participation in policy determination and allows commissioners the opportunity to play a vital role in the communications process between residents and elected representatives. As a member of one of the Town’s commissions, boards or committees, you can focus on community needs that require your understanding, dedication, enthusiasm, vision and experience.

Parks Commission

One example of the Town’s commissions is the Parks Commission. The members of this commission advise the Town Council on matters pertaining to public parks, trails, grounds, street trees and Town beautification. The Commission consists of nine members: seven adult members and two students. Six of the adult members must reside in the Town of Los Gatos; one adult member may reside within the Town of Los Gatos or the City of Monte Sereno. Adult members serve 4-year terms. Student members must have completed 9th grade, reside in the Town of Los Gatos, and attend any accredited high school; or have completed 9th grade, have a Los Gatos mailing address, and attend an accredited high school in the Town of Los Gatos. One Commissioner is appointed to the Bicycle Advisory Committee. You are welcome to come to any of the Commission’s regular meetings held on the first Tuesday of every month. Meetings are held at various parks during warm summer months and at the Parks and Public Works Department, 41 Miles Avenue in Los Gatos during winter. You may verify the location, date, time and agenda of a meeting by going to www.losgatosca.gov/parkscommission or call the Parks and Public Works Department at (408) 399-5770.

Art in the Council Chambers

The Town of Los Gatos is pleased to continue to showcase Art in the Council Chambers, an exciting display of art exhibits presented in the Town Council Chambers throughout the year. These rotating

exhibits provide the opportunity for our community to experience a variety of art created by talented artists in our community. An evening reception is held to welcome each exhibit and the public is encouraged to attend. The exhibits are

coordinated by the Town of Los Gatos Arts Commission’s Art in the Council Chambers Committee. All art is available for viewing in the Town’s Council Chambers Monday through Friday, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm, if the Council Chambers are unoccupied. For more information, please contact the Community Services Department at (408) 354-6820 or visit the Town’s website, www.losgatosca.gov.

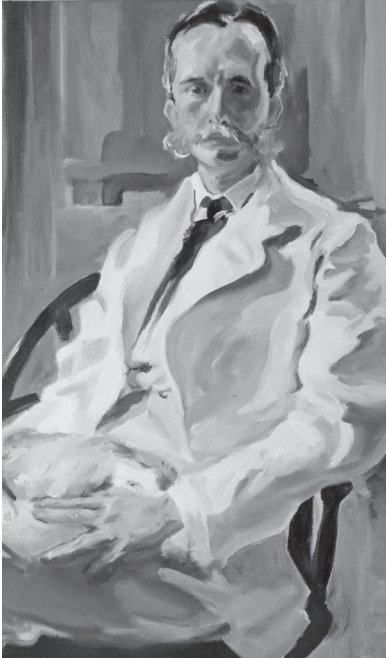
The Los Gatos High School Art Students’ paintings are on exhibit through April 24. Over the next few months, the following exhibits will be welcomed into the Town’s Council Chambers:

Seniors Art Workshop

Exhibit Dates:
April 24 – June 26
Reception Date:
Thursday, May 8, 6:00–8:00 pm

Laurie Barna

Exhibit Dates:
June 26 – September 18
Reception Date:
Friday, July 11, 6:00–8:00 pm



Portrait of Man with Cat by Los Gatos High School Student, Olivia Ady

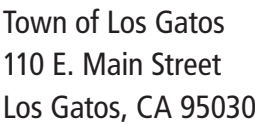
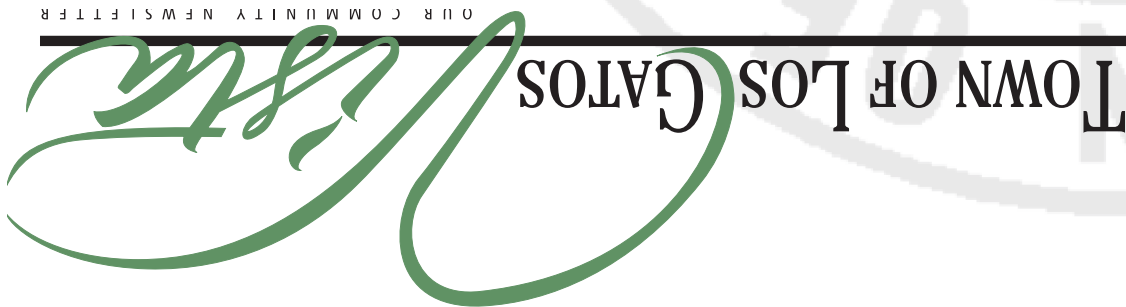


Portrait of Woman and Flowers by Los Gatos High School Student, Alexia Kalogeropulou



Date	Time	Event	Contact
Mondays	10:30 am	Toddler Story Time	Library
Mondays, Wednesdays	3 pm to 5 pm	Books Together	Library
Tuesdays	10:30 am	Pre-School Story Time	Library
Tuesdays	3:30 pm to 5 pm	Children's Library Event	Library
Fridays	8:30 am to 2:30 pm	55+ Program	Neighborhood Center
April 22	4 pm	Children's Library Event	Library
April 23	1 pm	Senior Wednesday Movie Afternoon	Neighborhood Center
April 24 - June 26	9 am to 2:30 pm	Senior Plant Swap	Neighborhood Center
April 25	Noon	National Arbor Day Celebration	Council Chambers
May 8	4 pm	Children's Library Event	Library
May 16	TBD	Friends of Los Gatos Library Friday Forum Featuring Author Leigh Weimers	Library
May 17	9 am to 3 pm	Community Garage Sale	Library
May 28	1:00 pm	Senior Wednesday Movie Afternoon	Los Gatos and Monte Sereno Neighborhood Center
June 5	3:30 pm	Children's Library Event	Library
June 19	5 pm	Children's Library Event	Library
June 22	5 pm to 7 pm	Music in the Park Concert	Civic Center
June 25	1 pm	Senior Wednesday Movie Afternoon	Neighborhood Center
June 26	3:30 pm	Children's Library Event	Library
June 26 - September 18	9 am to 5 pm	Art in the Council Chambers	Council Chambers
June 29	5 pm to 7 pm	Music in the Park Concert	Civic Center
July - August	8 pm	Los Gatos Shakespeare Festival	Oak Meadow Park
July 4	11 am to 7:30 pm	Los Gatos Celebrates the 4th of July	Civic Center
July 6	5 pm to 7 pm	Music in the Park Concert	Civic Center
July 10	3:30 pm	Children's Library Event	Library
July 13	5 pm to 7 pm	Music in the Park Concert	Civic Center
July 17	3:30 pm	Children's Library Event	Library
July 20	5 pm to 7 pm	Music in the Park Concert	Civic Center
July 23	1 pm	Senior Wednesday Movie Afternoon	Neighborhood Center
July 24	6:30 pm	Children's Library Event	Library
July 27	5 pm to 7 pm	Music in the Park Concert	Civic Center
August 3	5 pm to 7 pm	Music in the Park Concert	Civic Center
August 10	5 pm to 7 pm	Music in the Park Concert	Civic Center
August 16, 17	10 am to 6 pm	Music in the Park Concert – Fiesta de Artes	Civic Center
August 24	5 pm to 7 pm	Senior Wednesday Movie Afternoon	Civic Center
August 27	1 pm	Senior Wednesday Movie Afternoon	Neighborhood Center
August 31	7:30 pm	Music in the Park Concert	Civic Center
September 26	7:30 pm	Screen on the Green	Oak Meadow Park
October		Town-wide Los Gatos Preparedness Month	www.losgatosprepared.org

Calendar of Events



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